

TOHAK 73

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RNR 979

FORD--SOVIET***

MOSCOW, NOV. 22, REUTER -- THE SOVIET UNION TODAY DECLARED SUPPORT FOR AN ARMS AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES LIMITING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE SUPERPOWERS NUCLEAR ARSENALS, BUT SAID SUCH A PACT MUST BE BASED ON RECIPROCITY.

THE STATEMENT CAME IN A COMMENTARY BY THE OFFICIAL TASS NEWS AGENCY ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT FORDS VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT WITH SOVIET PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV.

THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION IS EXPECTED TO BE AT THE CENTER OF THE TWO LEADERS TWO-DAY TALKS, ALTHOUGH THE RUSSIANS HAVE INDICATED TO VISITING U.S. POLITICIANS THAT THEY EXPECT NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.

THE AUTHORITATIVE TASS COMMENTARY STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTED A LIMITATION AGREEMENT "...IN RESPECT BOTH OF QUALITY AND QUANTITY -- ON THE CONDITION, OF COURSE, THAT ANY AGREEMENT SHOULD CORRESPOND TO THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY."

TASS ALSO PREDICTED THAT EUROPEAN SECURITY AND THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD COME UP AT THE TALKS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE TWO SUBJECTS WOULD BE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN THE PURSUIT OF STABLE PEACE IN THE WORLD.

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RNR 980

FORD -- SOVIET 2 MOSCOW

TASS HAILED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE THREE PREVIOUS SOVIET-U.S. SUMMITS -- IN 1972 AND LAST JUNE, WHEN FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON VISITED MOSCOW, AND LAST YEAR WHEN MR. BREZHNEV VISITED THE U.S.

THE MEETINGS HAD DONE MUCH TO ENSURE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS WERE DETERMINED BY PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND NOT BY CONFRONTATION, TASS DECLARED.

HOWEVER, THE AGENCY'S COMMENTATOR, YURI KORNILOV, POINTED TO CONTINUING U.S. BARRIERS AGAINST TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND WARNED THAT DETENTE AND DISCRIMINATION WERE INCOMPATIBLE CONCEPTS.

REUTER 0646
